Short supply of Ethanol

4756. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been short supply of Ethanol in the country during the last two months;

(b) whether Government have postponed the deadline for supply of Ethanol-doped petrol in several States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) There has been short supply of anhydrous ethanol in the country due to inadequate build-up of infrastructure for its production.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Initially Government proposed to cover the 9 major sugar producing States and 4 contiguous Union Territories by mandatory supply of Ethanol doped petrol with effect from 1-1-2003 *vide* a notification issued in September, 2002. However to give more time to the sugar and distillery units in the notified areas to set up infrastructure for manufacture of anhydrous Ethanol, Government have permitted the phased coverage of entire area of these 9 States and 4 Union Territories with the sale of only 5% Ethanol blended petrol by 30-6-2003 *vide* a notification issued in December, 2002.

Exploration of gas and oil in M.P. and Chhattisgarh

†4757. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps for exploitation of gas and oil reserves in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on the basis of reports of bio-scientific surveys, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred on the same and by when success is likely to be achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Hydrocarbons, crude oil and natural gas, have not been discovered in commercial quantities in the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh; and no reserves have been established as of today. However, while exploratory efforts continue in the two States, yet their outcome cannot be predicted since the exploration of hydrocarbons is input deterministic and output probabilistic in nature.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.